

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-12 EUR-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NASA-02 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02
DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-20 /179 W
-----042874 020118Z /66

P 020047Z JUN 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1722
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02230

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, UNGA, PK

SUBJECT: SSOD: GENERAL DEBATE SUMMARY, MAY 29, 1978:
PAKISTAN OPENING STATEMENT.

1. SUMMARY: PAKISTANI REP. AGHA SHAHI MADE A THOUGHTFUL, BALANCED STATEMENT COVERING THE WIDEST RANGE OF DISARMAMENT ISSUES YET ADDRESSED IN ANY DETAIL DURING SSOD GENERAL DEBATE. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON THE ISSUE OF SECURITY ASSURANCES TO NON-NUCLEAR STATES IN ADDITION TO THE EXPECTED PLUG FOR SUPPORT OF THE LONG-STANDING PAKISTANI INITIATIVE ON ESTABLISHING A SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE. AGHA SHAHI ALSO COMMENTED ON SUCH ISSUES AS SALT, COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS, NON-PROLIFERATION, CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS AND OTHERS. SALIENT POINTS OF PAKISTANI STATEMENT FOLLOW BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL: THE OVERALL TONE OF THE PAKISTANI OPENING STATEMENT WAS MODERATE -- CRITICAL OF THE LACK OF ACHIEVEMENT OF REAL DISARMAMENT, BUT NOT DISCOUNTING ENTIRELY THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAST, MULTILATERALLY-AGREED MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE FIELD OF ARMS
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CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF THE LACK OF INFLUENCE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXERCISE IN DISARMAMENT IN THE PAST AND CALLED FOR THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THIS SSOD TO "FULLY REFLECT THE INTERESTS AND PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD AS WELL AS THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OVER THE LAST

30 YEARS." AGHA SHAHI WAS THE FIRST SPEAKER TO REMARK ON SOME OF THE EARLIER SSOD STATEMENTS, MOST NOTABLY THE FRENCH, US AND USSR STATEMENTS. HE WAS ESPECIALLY SUPPORTIVE OF SOME OF THE FRENCH PROPOSALS AND MILDLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED SOON ON SALT AND COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB).

3. SALT: AGHA SHAHI BEGAN HIS REMARKS ON SALT BY SAYING THAT THE FIRST OBJECTIVE OF ANY DISARMAMENT STRATEGY MUST BE THE "REDUCTION OF THE ARSENALS OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS, TO THE MINIMUM LEVELS NECESSARY FOR MUTUAL DETERRENCE." HE SAID PAKISTAN VIEWED THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS AS "BUT THE FIRST STEP ALONG A THOUSAND MILE JOURNEY", BUT WELCOMED THE CURRENT TALKS AND THE INDICATIONS THAT THE US AND USSR WERE READY TO MOVE FURTHER TOWARD SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND STRICTER LIMITATIONS ON THEIR QUALITATIVE DEVELOPMENT.

4. COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN AND ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS: AGHA SHAHI WELCOMED THE STATEMENTS OF THE US AND USSR REGARDING THE PROSPECTS FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A CTBT, BUT ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT AGREEMENT ON A CTB SHOULD HAVE BEEN REACHED FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. HE STATED THAT THE LONG DELAY HAD LED TO AN INTENSIFICATION OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. IN THIS CONTEXT, AGHA SHAHI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT "EARLY AGREEMENT" WOULD BE REACHED BETWEEN

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THE US AND THE USSR ON A "MUTUAL RENUNCIATION ... OF NEW TYPES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS SUCH AS THE SO-CALLED 'NEUTRON BOMB'".

5. SECURITY ASSURANCES: AGHA SHAHI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT, PENDING CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT PROHIBITING THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, "THE SUPERPOWERS WOULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AN INTERIM ACCORD ON THE NON-FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS". HE WELCOMED THE DECLARATIONS OF THE PRC, FRANCE AND THE USSR THAT THEY WOULD NOT USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT "OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS" WOULD BE "NO LESS FORTHCOMING" IN PROVIDING SUCH AN ASSURANCE TO NON-NUCLEAR STATES. HE ALSO STATED THAT SECURITY ASSURANCES TO NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES WERE MULTILATERAL UNDERTAKINGS, "NOT BILATERAL TRANSACTION(S)" AND MUST BE "INCORPORATED IN A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AND INVESTED WITH BINDING FORCE UNDER A LEGAL INSTRUMENT".

6. NON-PROLIFERATION: AGHA SHAHI STATED THAT THE "FIRST TASK" TO PREVENT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS TO BRING UNSAFE-

GUARDED FACILITIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL AND "TO ACCOUNT FOR THE FISSILE MATERIAL ACCUMULATED FROM THEM". HE CHARGED THE SUPPLIERS WITH ATTEMPTING TO RESTRAIN AND HINDER THE TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, "ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES". HE REMINDED THE ASSEMBLY OF UNGA RESOLUTION 32/50, WHICH CONTAINED A SET OF PRINCIPLES TO GOVERN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, ASKING THAT THE SSOD URGE THE SUPPLIERS TO REVIEW THEIR POLICIES AND ADHERE TO THE AGREED PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN RES. 32/50. HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE SSOD CALL FOR THE ADOPTION OF A SPECIAL PROGRAM TO PROMOTE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL

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NASA-02 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02
DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-20 ISO-00 /179 W
-----042878 020121Z /66

P 020047Z JUN 78

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PURPOSES IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

7. SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE (SANWFZ): AGHA SHAHI DECLARED THAT THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR THE CREATION OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE EXIST IN SOUTH ASIA. REFLECTING PAST INDIAN OBJECTIONS TO A SANWFZ, AGHA SHAHI STATED THAT "SOUTH ASIA IS A LARGE ENOUGH GEOGRAPHIC AREA TO QUALIFY FOR THE STATUS OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE. HE ALSO SAID THAT NONE OF THE "REGIONAL STATES" OPPOSED CREATION OF A SANWFZ AND ANY DOUBTS OR RESERVATIONS COULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH CONSULTATIONS.

8. CONVENTIONAL ARMS: AGHA SHAHI STATED THAT THE "PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY" FOR DISARMAMENT IN THE FIELD OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AS IN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, BELONGED

TO THE SUPERPOWERS. HE SUPPORTED THE FRENCH PROPOSAL TO HOLD MEETINGS OF SUPPLIERS AND ARMS-IMPORTING COUNTRIES IN A REGION AND PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES AS GUIDELINES FOR SUCH AN EFFORT, ASKING THAT SSOD ENDORSE THE PRINCIPLES:

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FIRST, THE OBJECTIVE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SUPPLIES OR RESTRAINTS MUST BE TO PROMOTE PEACE AND SECURITY GLOBALLY AS WELL AS IN VARIOUS REGIONS.

SECOND, A MILITARY BALANCE WHICH ENSURES DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AMONG REGIONAL STATES AND FOR THIS PURPOSE BOTH THE LEVELS OF TRANSFER AND INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION OF ARMAMENTS, NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

THIRD, THOSE STATES WHICH ARE IN A PREPONDERANT MILITARY POSITION SHOULD INITIATE ARMS LIMITATIONS.

FOURTH, THE RIGHT OF EACH STATE TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL OF FORCES ESSENTIAL FOR ITS SECURITY MUST BE RECOGNIZED.

END QUOTE.

9. MACHINERY: AGHA SHAHI CALLED FOR THE UN TO PLAY A "CENTRAL ROLE" IN DISARMAMENT, "MONITORING AND FACILITATING ALL DISARMAMENT EFFORTS." TO THIS END, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OR A REVISED UN DISARMAMENT COMMISSION COULD UNDERTAKE THE TASK OF "DELIBERATING AND EVOLVING OVERALL SOLUTIONS TO DISARMAMENT PROBLEMS". HE SUPPORTED PRESERVATION OF THE CCD, BUT CALLED FOR A MORE DIRECT AND EXPLICIT" RELATIONSHIP TO THE UN; DEMOCRATIZATION OF ITS PROCEDURES AND WORKING METHODS AND CREATIONS OF THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES, IN ADDITION TO A LIMITED INCREASE IN THE CCD'S COMPOSITION. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, SESSION (UN SPECIAL), SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0378
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806100/aaaadicj.tel
Line Count: 213
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b515077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2136075
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SSOD: GENERAL DEBATE SUMMARY, MAY 29, 1978: PAKISTAN OPENING STATEMENT.
TAGS: PARM, PORG, PK, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b515077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014